

University of Dundee

Citizen Science Projects (MOOC) 2.15

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Video - 2.15 Crowdsourcing data

In this video, you heard from Dahlia Domain of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria. Crowdsourcing data is a phenomenon that has grown over the last decade. In crowdsourcing projects, citizens contribute data for a specific task that could otherwise not be collected with existing resources.

Dahlia showed you some different kinds of crowdsourcing applications. You can use some of these from the comfort of your home using just your computer or mobile device. Others require you to go outside and collect land-related data in the field using your smartphone.

Dahlia talked about [Geo-Wiki](<http://geo-wiki.org>), a crowdsourcing tool used for the collection of land cover data. Citizens are asked to look at high-resolution satellite images and identify different features of the landscape. The data collected have been used in various land cover mapping applications.

[FotoQuest Go](<http://fotoquest-go.org>) and [CityOases](<https://www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at/en/p/cityoases>) are mobile apps for crowdsourcing land-related data in the field. These data can provide information that can be used by planners, decision-makers and researchers.

You can find examples of past crowdsourcing campaigns on the [LandSense Engagement Platform](<http://landsense.eu>), where you can also get open access to the data. These crowdsourced data can be used in different ways, such as input data for algorithms that classify land cover from satellite images. These algorithms need lots of information about land cover and land use at locations around the world.

In the next step, you will develop your own strategy for data collection. Before you do that, try out at least one crowdsourcing application so you can get a feel for what's involved. Here are a few options for you to try, select at least one and post a comment to answer the questions below:

1. Download a nature observations app such as [iNaturalist](<https://www.inaturalist.org/>) or [iSpot](<https://www.ispotnature.org/>), and share some observations of nature where you live.
2. Go to the [LandSense Engagement Platform](<https://lep.landsense.eu/Explore/Campaigns>) and look for an ongoing Picture Pile campaign. Picture Pile is a mobile and web-based app for the rapid assessment of imagery (satellite or photographs). Load the application and swipe away, helping us to classify imagery around different themes!
3. Go to the [Zooniverse](<https://www.zooniverse.org>) website and find a campaign that interests you. Make some contributions.

##Share your thoughts!

- + Did you enjoy the task?
- + Did you understand what scientific question you were trying to answer?
- + Would you go back and continue the task? Why or why not?